



Working  
for the  
future

# CABFARE

Number 2 Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant Citizens Advisory Board September 2001

## Board recommends site study

By LINDA LONG  
CAB Member

A major problem in the plant cleanup effort is the disposal of waste materials. On-site facilities do not have sufficient space and off-site shipments are very expensive.

One alternative is building a CERCLA waste disposal facility on site. This facility would have layers of protection in the bottom and a protective covering over the top. Wells and other equipment would monitor the disposal facility, also called a "cell."

Only low-level wastes would be stored in Paducah. Other wastes would be transported for disposal in other states.

Preliminary investigation located 10, 110-acre potential sites. After further study, four sites remained to be considered by the Citizens Advisory Board. Several board members toured the sites in May and recommended changes in the layout of two sites.

The board considered the four finalist sites, plus the two reconfigured sites and commented on problems associated with them. These problems included wetlands, forested areas,

recreational uses of the sites, traffic concerns and the difficulty of staging other cleanup work to have the site ready for use as a CERCLA cell.

By a 6-3 vote, with two abstentions, the board approved the following recommendation:

*"The Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant Citizens Advisory Board has reservations about the larger question of whether it is appropriate to have a CERCLA disposal cell at the site. Nonetheless, having reviewed the potential sites for a seismic study, the board recommends*

*by a 6-3 vote that the site known as 3A be the site for the seismic study."*

Site 3A is adjacent to the plant's main entrance road along Hobbs Road and Dyke Road. It is partially within the plant security fence.

DOE will begin a detailed seismic evaluation by September. Concerns about seismic activity in the Paducah area had been expressed by both the board and state and federal environmental regulators.

*The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the entire board.*

THE CAB HAS  
CONCERNS ABOUT  
WHETHER REGIONAL  
SEISMIC ACTIVITY  
MAKES A CERCLA  
FACILITY INADVISABLE  
FOR PADUCAH.

## CAB moves office, meeting place

The Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant Citizens Advisory Board has a new office and monthly meeting site.

The board has moved its office to 111 Memorial Drive, across Alben Barkley Drive from Paducah Community College, in the Barkley Centre.

The board's new phone number is (270) 554-3004.

The office move came in conjunction with the relocation of DOE's Paducah

Environmental Information Center from Kevil. The EIC opened August 1 at 115 Memorial Drive, next door to the board office.

The new EIC has a large public meeting space which the board will use for its regular monthly meetings.

The board meets at 5:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month. The public is invited to attend and participate.

## NEWS IN BRIEF ...

❑ **New member appointed** — Dr. John Russell, chairman of the engineering department at Western Kentucky University, has been appointed to the PGDP CAB. He fills the unexpired term of Kit Atkinson, who recently resigned.

❑ **CAB sends delegation to national meeting** — Four members of the PGDP CAB attended the Department of Energy Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board's national chairs conference in Santa Fe, N.M. Linda Long, Doug Raper, Gregory Waldrop and Becky Lambert represented Paducah at the August 26-29 conference. The event included meetings with DOE officials and other advisory boards.



Visit us on the World Wide Web at:  
[www.oakridge.doe/pgdpssab](http://www.oakridge.doe/pgdpssab)

## Board makes two recommendations to DOE

The Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant Citizens Advisory Board made two recommendations to DOE at its July meeting.

One dealt with a national Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) on scrap metal recycling, while the second focused on sediment controls at the Paducah site.

Regarding the PEIS, the board asked DOE to schedule a public meeting in Paducah to discuss the scope of the document.

"The Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant has more than 50,000 tons of scrap metal on the site," the board noted in its recommendation. A meeting in Paducah would "give residents of the area an opportunity to comment."

The surface water recommendation followed the issuance of a draft Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis on the construction of sedimentation controls at two of the plant's outfalls.

The board noted that DOE, the U.S. EPA and state environmental regulators have not been able to agree on "acceptable levels for pollutants or a

course of action" for controlling sediments that have the potential to move contaminants from the DOE site into the adjacent West Kentucky Wildlife Management Area.

The board made several related recommendations.

**1** — DOE, working with Kentucky and EPA, should establish human health and ecological risk-based, fair, just and equal numerical values for potential contaminants in surface water discharges.

**2** — DOE, using the parameters established in this recommendation, should develop a site wide surface water management plan addressing all outfalls by December 2002.

**3** — Included in the surface management plan should be: a) separation of combined sewers; b) suspended and dissolved treatment alternatives selected; c) use of localized controls; d) new industries such as, but not limited to, UF6 and metals recovery should be made responsible for surface water in their operating area; and, e) a comprehensive monitoring plan.



### Ribbon-cutting opens CAB office

CAB members participated in the recent ribbon-cutting that opened the new board office and the DOE Paducah Environmental Information Center. DOE Paducah Site Manager W. Don Seaborg, McCracken Judge-Executive Danny Orazine, Paducah Mayor Bill Paxton, and Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce President Susan Guess cut the ribbon just before the board's August meeting. Also pictured are board members Becky Lambert (left rear), Bill Tanner and Merryman Kemp.